

ABSTRACT

A process for pipeline installation in shallow or very shallow water. The process includes trench excavation used for positioning/guiding pipes (“pre-trenching”); optional dragging of the pipes during the pre-trenching; cleaning and maintenance of the trench in the dragging; underground insertion of the pipes positioned at a required level (“post-trenching”); possible covering of the inserted pipes (“back-filling”). The operations are effected by coordinated use of vehicles of: a tracked transport vehicle or a vehicle with tires; an autonomous power and control module to power the vehicle, equipped with an operator cabin, being either positioned on the vehicle chassis or detached and placed on a floating craft, connected to the vehicle by an umbilical duct. The vehicles are assigned to transport one or more equipment items each having one of the following functions: “pre-trenching”, “trench maintenance”, “post-trenching”, possibly dragging and/or “back-filling”, so that all the equipment having the above functions is present within the whole group of vehicles used.